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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
18 September 1954

TO: Deputy Director (Intelligence)

SUBJECT: Impending Swedish Elections


1. Date: 19 September 1954.
2. Offices to be filled: Provincial, city and communal assemblies. The twenty-four provincial assemblies and municipal councils in the six largest cities form electoral colleges, which elect one-eighth of the 150 mandate Upper House of Parliament each year.
3. Parties participating: Conservative, Liberal, Agrarian, Social Democratic and Communist.
4. Key political figures: None
5. Principal issues: Differences among the four democratic parties are not great. Specific issues, as usual, are in economic field, and involve agricultural price setting, taxation, and housing. Local issues will play significant role.
6. Present party strength:

	1950 provincial	1952 parliament
Conservatives	12.3 percent	14.4 percent
Liberals	21.7 "	24.4 "
Agrarians	12.3 "	10.7 "
Social Democrats	48.6 "	46.1 "
Communists	4.9 "	4.3 "
Others	0.2 "	0.1 "
7. Principal factors influencing the outcome: The basic issue before the voters is whether the Social Democrats should be given a "moral mandate" to continue to run Sweden alone or as at present in coalition with the small Agrarian party.
8. Outcome of other relevant recent elections: The 1950 provincial and the 1952 parliamentary elections confirmed the shift in voter preference toward the center, with the center itself moving somewhat to the right.

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9. Informed opinions: No drastic change in the relative strength of the parties is anticipated. The government parties: Social Democrats and Agrarians, may lose some ground to the Liberals and the Conservatives. Despite a bitter internecine struggle, the Communists may benefit from the recent Soviet "peace" tactics.
10. Probable significance for US security interests: Negligible. Foreign policy has played no important role in this campaign. A clear setback for the government parties could, however, portend a greater degree of flexibility in Sweden's alliance-free foreign policy.


Acting Assistant Director
Current Intelligence

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